

1934

40 Years of Evangelism in Australia

1974



The Rev. Captain
J. S. Cowland, M.B.E.,
Federal Secretary, 1934-1951



The Rev. Captain
A. W. Batley,
Federal Secretary, 1951-1968



Captain R. L. Gwilt,
Federal Secretary, 1969-

First Training College, Adamstown, N.S.W. 1934-1944



Third Training College, Croydon (Sydney), N.S.W. 1962-1967



Present College and Administration Centre, Belrose, N.S.W. 1968-



Second College, Stockton, N.S.W. 1944-1962



First Staff Conference held in August, 1936 at Adamstown,
N.S.W.



Most recent Staff Conference held in January, 1974 at
Croydon, N.S.W.



The Changing Means of Transport for Gospel Outreach



40th ANNIVERSARY

Memories — Insights — Reflections

The Rev. W. Hoare (member of original C.A. team from England):

The year 1931 was an eventful year because it saw the beginning of the effort to bring into being the Church Army in Australia. As a result of an invitation from the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church in Australia, a small team of Church Army Officers was sent from England under the leadership of Captain J. S. Cowland. I was privileged to be a member of that team. From the outset we realised the importance of our task and the problems we might have to face. We arrived during the time of the depression and were prepared to face any difficulties which might arise. Our faith was firmly planted in God and we believed that He would prosper the work we were undertaking.

The plan was to visit each State in turn, visiting as many Dioceses as possible, to demonstrate the Evangelistic work of the Society and to interest as many people as we could in the work, in the hope that a fund could be started so that young lay men and women of the Commonwealth could be trained in this type of work to assist in the extension of Christ's Kingdom.

During 1931 to 1933 all States in the Commonwealth were visited and the results were most encouraging. The Church in Australia showed the desire that this work should be established here and funds began to grow to make this possible. The Bishop of Newcastle, the Right Reverend F. de Witt Batty, offered a building which could be used as a Training College, which meant that Captain Cowland could return to England in 1933

with the team to report on the progress made and to make arrangements for an autonomous Society to be established in Australia.

I remained in Australia to establish Headquarters in Newcastle in order to keep in touch with our Subscribers and to keep the work before the people. Captain Cowland returned to Australia in 1934 and he and I worked out the details necessary for the establishment of the Church Army in Australia.

With the approval of the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church in Australia and the support of London Headquarters, the Church Army in Australia came into being on August 4th, 1934 with Captain Cowland as Founder and first Federal Secretary and my position as his second in command and Chief Accountant of the new Society.

Throughout the whole of this time it was felt that the hand of God was leading us. There were problems — yes — but God showed us how to overcome them.

It was not long after the establishment of the Society in the Commonwealth that we were able to open the Training College to the first batch of Australian trainees who were eager to be trained in the work of Evangelism. For some time, as well as my other work in the Society, I was in charge of the Training College which was situated in the Newcastle suburb of Adamstown. I remained with the Society until 1944, which was after its Incorporation and when it was firmly established.

The work has continued over the years and must continue in the days that lie ahead. It can

literature and other items associated with a religious bookshop. I believe many clergy throughout Australia value their contact with this department of our evangelistic work. I little thought I would have this responsibility for 22 years, until my retirement, when I handed over this task to the capable leadership of the present manager. Needless to say, in all my work as a married officer, I was ably assisted by my wife.

The Rev. A. W. Batley (Federal Secretary 1951-1968):

In 1955, a small book entitled "The Boomerang Returns" was published to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Church Army in Australia. It traced the history of the Young Society from its beginnings in 1934, through the war years of 1939 to 1945, into the vigorous and expanding years which followed until 1955. That was a peak year for the Society. It was a time of consolidation and expansion and we stood on the threshold of great expectations. Increasing numbers of young people were offering themselves for training in our ranks; new doors of opportunity were opening in the Church, and Evangelism was being talked about and experimented with in the most unexpected places. Not only had the Church Army "come of age" in Australia, but it was being asked by the Church to do a "man's job."

But there was a false optimism in the air. All was not well, and in spite of the claims that we were on the threshold of a new and exciting era, there was something missing in the quality of life. Within the Church the voice of the prophet could be heard warning us of the dangers of materialism. We have ample evidence today of the consequences of a rampant materialistic age. Almost without realising it we have passed from the traditional patterns of living which earlier generations took for granted, into new and uncertain ways of life and we find ourselves caught up in the whirlpool of a new world. Religionless

Christianity and the New Morality seem to challenge the Biblical theology which has been the basis of Church Army evangelism over the years, and the unspoken question which stares us in the face is "What is the message we have to proclaim to a new generation reared on the half-truths of popular science and caught up with the novelty of a secular philosophy of life?" We must surely stand on the firm conviction that the Message of the Gospel is the same as it has always been, only our methods must change.

During the past twenty years the Church Army has "grown up." Today the officers of the Church Army commit themselves to a ministry in depth, and a quick perusal of the list of activities in which officers are engaged will indicate the complexity of the work as well as the variety of approaches which is needed in this age and generation. We can thank God that the Church Army has survived the disruptive influences of this new age and is still grounded on the simple truths of the Gospel, but is sufficiently flexible in its methods of approach to be relevant to the generation it seeks to serve.

In a foreword in the publication mentioned at the beginning of this article, the late John S. Cowland, founder of the Church Army in Australia, said, "... when I 'hit' sixty years of age God gave me enough sense to realise that I ought to pass over the leadership to a younger and more active man." That was in 1950, after seventeen years of leading the young Society through the troubled waters of the 1940's. Seventeen years later again, that "younger and more active man" also felt the need of a new generation of leadership for the Church Army, and in 1968 he left the Society in the capable hands of its present Leader, Captain R. L. Gwilt. The present status of the Church Army in the Church and its vigorous pursuit of pioneer evangelism, is ample evidence of the wisdom of these decisions. May it long continue in the forefront of the Church's primary task, which is to "preach the Gospel to every creature."

The Rev. JOHN COWLAND, M.B.E.

Friday, the 19th April, 1974, saw quite a number of officers, wives, friends and supporters of the Church Army in Australia gathered in St. Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney. They were there to give thanks to God and to pay tribute to JOHN SAMUEL COWLAND, who died on 16th April.

The Right Rev. F. O. Hulme-Moir brought together the thoughts of many when he delivered the occasional address, and the following are extracts from it.

"Many years ago John S. Cowland conducted a mission in my parish church while I was Rector. The one verse of scripture which remains clearly inscribed in my memory is the one that contains the words found in Galatians 2:20, 'I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.' It is with these words in my mind I come to you this morning on this sad and joyous occasion to pay tribute to his memory.

"Many of us who belong to the Church Army family feel we have lost our father, for John Samuel Cowland, priest in the Church of God, as Captain Cowland founded this great society in Australia in the year 1934.

"It seemed fitting that, having received the sacrament (his Easter communion) from the hands of his very loving and faithful friend, Bill McLeod, he should have had the Word ministered to him shortly before his departure by one who esteemed him greatly, the Archbishop of Sydney. The Archbishop drew his attention to the triumphant words in the Easter Collect, 'Jesus Christ has overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life'.

"John Samuel Cowland was born in the suburbs of London on the 6th October, 1891.

"The boy John began early in the Sunday School of his church and at the age of 7 joined the church choir. He was a harum-scarum, fun-loving Christian boy, irrepressible, extrovert and always happy. His vicar did not quite understand him as being serious enough to present him for confirmation and thus refused the boy's application. It was then that Sister Wray of the Church Army, on the staff of the parish, pleaded his cause and, after much pressure, won for John the opportunity of being prepared and presented for confirmation.

THE CALL

"As he grew older, the call to full-time service for God increased in tempo . . . He said to his parents . . . that he would offer to the Church Missionary Society for overseas service. They were not in agreement, as other members of the family were serving in the mission field, but gave him full support when he suggested service with the Church Army. He began at the Church Army Training College in 1910.

"In 1911 after two years training he was licensed as a lay evangelist. The style of his public speaking was influenced to an extent by the emotional presentation of the Gospel he had witnessed at Carlile's feet. On Sunday nights he and others would scour the district to bring people to Carlile's church which was always crowded to the doors.

"The Lord Thy God in the midst of Thee is mighty.."

In this 40th Anniversary year, the College has as its text part of the prophecy of Zephaniah and is discovering God is still at work through our students and staff.

17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

[ZEPHANIAH 3: 17].

MIGHTY TO KEEP

"That night I knew God was calling me to be an Evangelist." A typical testimony of the young men and women in training and who are praising God that no matter what obstacles or difficulties confront them, He is faithful and gives sufficient grace to keep them true to the initial response to follow Jesus.

In these days of danger and tragedy on the roads we acknowledge with thankfulness and praise God's continuing protection and presence in all our travelling.

"Lecturing at the College keeps me at my studies." "I find the atmosphere relaxing and helpful in a busy week." Remarks such as these made by our College lecturers are proof of God's keeping power and provision in and through the ministry of the team of dedicated honorary lecturers and teachers.

MIGHTY TO SAVE

On a recent Saturday night at a small coastal town, about 200 youngsters took part in a Youth Rally when the main speaker was a second-year student. God proved once again that His word is powerful and the meeting closed that night with young people sharing their experiences of Christ and leading some to the Saviour for the first time.

At a large Community Centre, one little girl found some answers to questions she had puzzled over. She returned with two friends and within a week fifteen youngsters formed a group looking for help and friendship. Some have already been linked with a local Sunday School.

A new convert to Christ shared his fears one night during the "after-glow" meeting following Evening Prayer in his local church. He was afraid that the future might find him outside of Christ and living the useless, empty existence without the Jesus he now loved and served. That night, from the Scriptures, he discovered that, in receiving God's Son, he received Everlasting Life and that nothing on earth, or in hell, or in heaven can separate him from God's love in Christ Jesus.

MIGHTY TO CARE

Life can be very frustrating for people who cannot fit into the established patterns of community behaviour, because of a background that has included the need for psychiatric care and assistance. Through visitation and recreational therapy, one student has discovered a ministry to such people.

In clubs, fellowships, camps and houseparties, students are finding time and time again that God's love is sufficient to bring change and meaningful relationships to seemingly impossible youngsters. Jesus is still mighty in His love and care through lives ready to be used by Him.

"There is no love like the love of Jesus
Never to fade or fall;
Till into the fold of the peace of God,
He has gathered us all."

" . . . HE WILL REJOICE OVER THEE WITH JOY."

THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

PATRONS : The Archbishops and Bishops of Australia.

PRESIDENT : The Most Rev. Sir Frank Woods, K.B.E., D.D.

P.O. Box 107, French's Forest, N.S.W. 2086

EXECUTIVE BOARD : The Rt. Rev. F. O. Hulme-Moir (Chairman), Mr. R. H. Boyt, The Very Rev. J. N. Falingham, The Rev. N. Fox, The Rev. D. G. Livingstone, The Rev. K. Walker, Miss G. A. Walton, The Ven. N. J. Chynoweth, The Rev. T. D. Croft, Mr. D. Coburn, Dr. L. Loewenthal, Mr. R. G. Manuell, The Rev. A. R. Patrick, Mr. K. Llewellyn (Hon. Treasurer).

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THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH ARMY:

The Church Army was founded in England in 1882 by Prebendary Wilson Carlile. It is a lay society of men and women Evangelists of the Anglican Communion. Other autonomous societies were founded in the U.S.A. in 1927, Canada 1928, Australia 1934, New Zealand 1935, Eastern Africa 1962, Jamaica 1969. Officers from some of these societies are also at work in Germany, South America, Malaysia, South Africa, British Honduras, Cyprus, Holland and West Pakistan.

CHURCH ARMY PRAYER CALENDAR

The following are suggestions for prayer, covering all aspects of the work over a period of 12 weeks.

- 1st Week:** The Executive Board: (names on page 2) the bi-monthly meetings.
- 2nd Week:** Federal Office: Captain R. L. Gwilt (Federal Secretary), Mrs. Gwilt, Peter, Stephen, Andrew and Timothy. Sister P. A. Free (Staff Sister). Mrs. E. Burton (Stenographer) and Mrs. E. Gwilt (Book-keeper). The Sydney Women's Auxiliary.
- 3rd Week:** Newcastle Bookshop: Captain N. A. R. Payne (Manager), Mrs. Payne, Andrea, Mark and Elizabeth. Mr. I. Lean (Accountant), Mr. Wilson (Assistant).
- 4th Week:** New Housing Areas: Captain R. Harris (Youth Director), Mrs. Harris, Glenda and Kerry, Green Valley, N.S.W. Sister B. J. Rilatt, Lockridge/Eden Hill, Perth, W.A.
- 5th Week:** Children's Homes: Sister N. J. Bridges (Matron), Farr House, Springfield, S.A. The Rev. Captain N. Polgen, St. George's Homes, Rockhampton, Qld. Sister E. N. Bacon on leave of absence.
- 6th Week:** Aboriginal Work: Captain and Mrs. A. Malcolm, Andrew and Ruth, Brewarrina, N.S.W. Captain A. Polgen, Sydney, N.S.W.
- 7th Week:** Hospital Work: Sister I. B. Johnson, Newcastle, N.S.W. and the work of the Newcastle Women's Auxiliary.
- Industrial Evangelism: Captain D. O. Quayle, three factories at Granville, Cabramatta and Homebush in Sydney.
- 8th Week:** Retired Officers: The Rev. and Mrs. A. W. Batley, Captain and Mrs. C. Fisk, Sister G. A. Phillpot, Sister M. Pritchard, Mrs. J. S. Cowland.
- 9th Week:** Parish Evangelism, City: Sister E. Campbell, Riverwood, N.S.W. Captain K. Donaldson, Kalamunda, W.A. Captain and Mrs. R. King, Ronwyn and Howard, Randwick, N.S.W. Captain and Mrs. R. Wallis, Kingsford, N.S.W.
- 10th Week:** Parish Evangelism, Country: Captain W. Darnley, Gladstone, Qld. Captain and Mrs. L. Fernance, Faith, Emmaville, N.S.W. Captain and Mrs. D. W. Hinchliffe, Dapto, N.S.W. Sister J. Leslie, Glen Innes, N.S.W. Captain S. Lister, Cobar, N.S.W. Captain and Mrs. B. Mattinson, Andrew, Cristopher, Warwick and Stuart, Campbelltown, N.S.W. Captain and Mrs. M. Tobin, Julie, Cootamundra, N.S.W.
- 11th Week:** The Training College: The Rev. D. G. Livingstone (Hon. Warden), Captain F. D. Clarke (Training College Officer). Students, Kevin Cullen (Mrs. Lyn Cullen and Anthony), Lorraine Dorrington, and Florence Herman for Australia, Richard Dyer and Roy Argent for New Zealand. Mrs. Lyn Brophy (cook). All lecturers. Training College and Candidates' Committee.
- 12th Week:** Youth Work: Captain and Mrs. J. Joy, Sharon and Heather, "Burgmann House" Hostel, Newcastle, N.S.W. Captain and Mrs. R. G. Eland, Lance and Paul, Green Valley Community Centre, N.S.W. Captain J. McKnight, "Alternate Culture" groups evangelism, Binna Burra, N.S.W. Captain K. Donaldson, part-time Youth Chaplain, Diocese of Perth, W.A.